

PHENOMENA

The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update

ISSUE 1 - MAY 2009

A RUNDOWN ON
EVENTS THAT
ARE TAKING PLACE
IN THE UK

IN THE PRESS

Monthly News Bulletin

INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE

PHOTOS OF GHOSTS OR HOAXES?



MAPIT COPYRIGHT 2009

Monthly News Bulletin

The Sun Newspaper—April 3rd 2009.

Ghost-hunters in double take...

Last week a spooky snap taken at the ruined Tantallon on the East Lothian coast was voted the world's most convincing paranormal snap. It appeared to show a figure clad in Tudor dress and a ruff peering out of a crumbling window. The photographer who took the picture last May claimed he saw no one there, and tests have ruled out digital tampering. Experts suggested the image might have been a trick of the light, but sceptic Professor Richard Wiseman admitted he was puzzled. The second photo was taken by Grace Lamb, from Edinburgh, at the same location 32 years ago. It shows her late husband Hugh and two children Paul and Kelly — and behind them, what looks like a female figure staring out of an opening above the window in the original ghost photo.



As before, Mrs Lamb does not recall seeing the face when she pressed the camera button. The figure was only noticed when the photograph was developed and has been a topic of heated debate by the family ever since. The family sent the photo to Prof Wiseman after seeing news coverage of the original Tantallon "ghost". Prof Wiseman, from Hertfordshire University, headed a panel of experts looking at ghost pictures from around the world as part of a project for Edinburgh International Science Festival. He said: "I am sceptical about ghosts, but this is a great find. There has been a huge number of people visiting the project website and I have received hundreds of images, but this is one of the most curious." Alex Pryce, of the Edinburgh Skeptics group, was unconvinced. He said: "When the picture is enlarged, it is quite obvious it is a woman with a carrier bag in her hand and her handbag over her shoulder. "It is a woman in a pink jacket coming down some stairs with a shopping bag."

Ghost seen behind family—Grace Lamb.

Whilst in London, Dave Sadler and Steve Mera attended the Richard & Judy Show along with Professor Richard Wiseman in hope of coming up with some rational explanations for some of the many photographs that had been submitted by people all over the country. Dave and Steve had looked at 20 of the so called best photos and discovered that each and every one of them could in fact be replicated. Some were thought to be double exposures, some were time laps photographs, some were paradolia, and some could have been photoshoped. In all, Dave and Steve were not impressed with any of the photographs classed as the top 20. The photograph of what looks like an old woman, taken at Tantallon Castle had been nominated the best and was attached to such remarks as, 'The photo has scientists baffled'. Funny!... Dave and Steve immediately came to the conclusion that it was more than likely a woman which was looking through the opening, probably stood on an observation box as she would have had to have been at least 8 foot tall without it. Observation boxes at areas where you can look out have been seen before in similar locations. Needless to say, Richard Wiseman thought it was a light aberation.... Say No More! The second photograph above was taken in the same location and again, may very well have a rational explanation...

The Sun Newspaper—May 13th 2009.

We captured 'the hand of ghost'

A GHOSTLY child reaches out from the darkness in a snap taken on a revolutionary new spirit-catching camera.

"My belief is it will take new technology to reveal new evidence." Paul got to work, drawing on his background as an engineer. The ghost-cam device - which is yet to get a proper name - is the latest in a line of gadgets he is working on to photograph and communicate with the dead. Speaking to The Sun ahead of this weekend's



British spooks hunter Paul Rowland reckons he's invented a gizmo for capturing spirits. It works by using ultraviolet and infrared lights to enhance images other cameras miss. And it was only after taking this chilling snap Paul learned there had been reports of a spirit child haunting that very room of the Welsh mansion he was working in. Amateur ghostbuster Paul said: "You can see a child-like figure and what appears to be an arm reaching out towards me. "I was standing with my back against the window ledge, just a metre away. "This picture is my prized-possession." The eerie shape was spotted at the haunted Plas Teg mansion, which is popular with paranormal groups. The swirling in the centre isn't anything paranormal - just a laser pen over a long exposure. Paul, 49, developed his gadget after watching TV shows like Most Haunted and believes it will help him capture dozens of spirits on camera in the near future. He explained: "I used to shout at the screen 'why don't you use this, or that.' "But when I researched I found the technologies simply didn't exist - so I started inventing them. "The equipment I build is specifically for the purpose of paranormal investigations, unlike the borrowed technology used by other investigators.



Edinburgh Ghost Fest, Paul continued: "The idea came about because I wanted to be able to carry technology around in one unit. "I use blue and ultraviolet lights to enhance our capability in the dark. "It also has a digital stills camera and camcorder - both of which can see in ultraviolet light. "And there's a live EVP (electronic voice phenomenon) system hooked up to it. "With all great respect to mediums, nobody else can hear what's going on. "But I believe my devices can - through feedback - let people hold yes/no conversations with the dead. "It's almost as if the machine senses an energy build-up in the room and records it. " We uncovered Paul's freaky photography as part of our ghost tour of Britain. He will be leading an investigation called The Paradox Experience in Scotland running until Sunday.

For more information visit marykingsghostfest.com or check out more of Paul's work at northwestspiritseekers.co.uk

The Sun's video team also visited haunted sites around London in search of spooks. We enlisted the help of Roy Roberts, who was recently crowned as the capital's No1 psychic. Roy picked up the prize at London Ghost Week and took us on a special tour. During our investigation he picked up the spirits of a number of children who had passed on. And also felt the presence of a headless woman roaming around. See how he got on visiting London's Canal Museum and down in the dark depths below Avenue House, a grade II listed mid-Victorian mansion in our video special above. Roy hosts paranormal investigations at spots across the country through frightnights.co.uk.

The Sun—April 14th 2009.

Salon's ghost is hair-raising...

THIS is the hair-raising moment a ghostly white image was filmed floating in a salon. The shining white orb was captured on video emerging from a fireplace and drifting within inches of the camera lens. Stunned hairdresser Harry Browns, 35, said this isn't the first time his customers have had a brush with spooky apparitions. But he said they have never been able to catch one on camera in Brown's salon in Market Harborough, Leics. He said: "We've been aware of an eerie presence in the salon for years but to actually see it on film is very odd. "Some of the girls working here have been quite freaked out by what they've seen.



"Scissors and hairbrushes have gone missing and order sheets have printed out on their own. "On one occasion a customer saw two people standing by the fireplace wearing old clothing. "He freaked out when we said no one was there so I decided to get some professionals to investigate." The spectre was caught on film after spook hunters Ghost UK set up cameras in the salon — a former court house dating back to 1820 — earlier this year. At 8.21pm on February 28, a ghostly white flash appeared on the camera. Kelly Goddard, 31, of Ghost UK, said the ghost could be that of a former prisoner. She said: "The most interesting part of the night was when we saw what looked like an orb or spirit. "On the screen it seemed to change shape. We believe the shape could have something to do with what the building was used for in the past. "Apparently it was used as a court house and criminals used to be hanged in the building's cellar. "This could explain the strange orbs and the dip in temperature felt by the staff and customers." Dad-of-two Mr Browns said he is happy for the ghosts to stay as long as they remain friendly. He said: "I haven't decided whether to hire an exorcist yet, as long as the ghost's don't do any harm I suppose they can stay."

Steve Mera believes the photograph, that is taken from the video footage looks very animated as if manufactured by computer software. The video footage can be viewed at:

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/article2376153.ece>

YORKSHIRE UFO?

Paul Sinclair has been fascinated by UFOs for as long as he can remember but only really got involved in Ufology after his first sighting. 'It involved me and a work colleague. It was at a place called Sledmere on the East Yorkshire Wolds (hill country). It was a bright sunny day and the UFO was a structured object of huge size hovering above a field and some trees.' Ever since then Paul has been regularly gazing at the skies. 'I am the guy who sits in the darkness observing hour in hour out. I am looking for real proof.'



Obviously Paul was excited when he managed to film this footage on May 1 2009, which he believes may well be an extraterrestrial spaceship. Paul insists his search for an alien presence in East Yorkshire is far from over. 'The UFO phenomenon is real and dedication is needed to sit on the remote Wolds during freezing cold conditions and is no less a task than that of a wildlife film maker.' 'I don't know of anyone else doing this in the UK, 'I have built up a good relationship with the local farmers in the area' Paul continued 'You would think that due to the nature of our subject that I would get a few raised brows. The plain fact is that most of them have seen the UFOs. One even told me about following an actual space ship as it silently glided across the tops of trees on his land. His wife, daughter and her boyfriend also saw it. The next day he sat and wrote a full account of the sighting.' UFO activity in Yorkshire is very extensive.

cactus

Over the last six months UPIA have been working with Cactus TV crew in association with the Richard & Judy Show. First appearing during the investigation of strange lights over Nether Poppleton, York which turned out to be nothing more than Chinese Lanterns.

The credibility of witnesses at Nether Poppleton all came down onto the shoulders of one guy, who claimed to have seen a couple of the objects shoot off in a different direction and away from the main formation of slow moving orange / white lights, which by the way, were travelling in the same direction as the wind and moving across the sky around about the same speed as the wind. UPIA conducted thorough interviews. Needless to say, as the leading witness was highly intoxicated by the end of our interviews, we knew he was not going to back down, nor was he going to like our preconclusion. Actually he got a little upset and the discussion became a little heated. Of course, it does not help when large amounts of money are involved such as £500.00—£1000.00 for video footage to be shown on TV and a tab behind the bar for around £500.00. Yep... Witnesses made the best of it, whilst UPIA investigators were stuck on coffee's, tea's and Coke's... Damn Protocols! A few days later UPIA were alerted to an article that appeared on the Sun Newspaper website giving mention to a witness near Nether Poppleton watching Chinese Lanterns being launched from a near by location. This led UPIA to suspect a deliberate hoax...



UPIA's next venture was to Solihull, Birmingham, where a young boy had claimed to have captured an apparition of a dark figure on his mobile phone. Unfortunately Cactus TV Crew hindered the investigation a little by rushing investigators through the interview procedures. Nevertheless, once again UPIA investigators had discovered a rational explanation. With no other reported incidents of paranormal phenomena than the alleged apparition, this led investigators to be a little

suss... After thoroughly checking the upstairs landing (where the alleged incident took place) for adverse EMF, lighting conditions, magnetic anomalies, unusual odours, temperature fluctuations, reflective surfaces, static and negative ions. UPIA came up with only one theory. A theory that by the end of the night had become our preconclusion. When looking at the original Solihull Ghost footage (available to watch on Youtube), we realised that there were a number of unusual camera flares in the footage. However, when we discovered no reflective areas in the location we immediately presumed the flares were Counter Flares. These are created by light bouncing off something in front of the camera and back into the camera lens. Bingo!... We had discovered how to replicate the footage. By simply placing something clear in front of the camera lens such as, a cd case, we could create the counter flares in the same location. As for the apparition, well... Nothing more than a tiny figure drawn on the cd case with a black marker pen. An hour after entering the property UPIA had in fact replicated the complete footage, counter flares, apparition and all. (Replication of the Solihull Ghost is available to watch on Youtube).

Finally, UPIA's third venture was in London where Dave Sadler and Steve Mera remarked on alleged paranormal photographs that had been submitted to Professor Richard Wiseman. We thank Cactus TV for our involvement and look forward to further ventures in the future. However the future for Cactus may be a little rocky as we have recently been told that the Richard & Judy Show will be finishing this June...



Strange Lights in the Sky.

Recently MAPIT Head Office received around 27 reported incidents of strange lights in the sky. The incident that took place on May 3rd 2009 caused a bit of a stir as witnesses watched up to 18 objects traverse across the sky. First sighted in Lymm, Cheshire at 9.15pm and then travelling Eastward over Altrincham, Sale, Timperley, Brooklands, Wythenshawe, Sharston and on to Stockport. Due to the fact that the objects in Wythenshawe were not sighted until around 11.20pm they were obviously slow moving. Again, due to details provided by the Met Office, the objects were travelling in the same direction as the wind and travelling around the same speed as the wind that night. Numerous newspapers picked up on the incident along with a radio station. However, by the following day MAPIT investigators had concluded the incident as..... Yep! Wait for it..... Chinese Lanterns Again!



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PETITION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC TESTING OF MEDIUMS AND PSYCHICS BY LAW

The following is the official version which appears on the Downing Street website.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/PsychicTesting/>

This has now recieved confirmation by officials and is now live. Currently at 94 Signatures.

We petition Her Majesty's government to initiate an accreditation scheme for Mediums, Psychics, Spiritualists, Healers and other paranormal practioners, which would determine whether a "psychic" individual truly exhibits abilities inexplicable in terms of current scientific laws. While the request for such assessment seems both outlandish and draconian, we ask to raise this petition in recognition that many psychic practitioners charge substantial sums of money for their services to an often vulnerable customer base; most notably the elderly, the bereaved and the seriously ill. It is noted that the Office of Fair Trading deems false psychic readings to be a major area of fraudulent activity – costing its victims around £140 million per annum. The need for some degree of assessment and regulation of psychics and mediums is now pressing, given that the Fraudulent Mediums Act (1951) was abolished in 2008. As a result, customers of psychic practioners are only "protected" by "fair trading" laws, with most acts of suspected "psychic" fraud no longer considered a criminal act.

In light of the above, this petition requests the government creates a number of testing centres (ideally associated with a university psychology department and assisted by a stage magician experienced in techniques such as slight of hand, "cold reading", etc.), capable of assessing whether an individual's claimed "psychic" abilities are either paranormal or can be explained in mundane terms. Those "psychics" and "mediums" passing such an assessment would be issued a licence, legally permitting them to commercially offer their services as a "psychic practioner". This document, however, should acknowledge that even apparently authentic psychic abilities are neither precise nor predictable. Those who either fail (or refuse to sit) such an assessment should be legally prohibited from taking money through claiming to possess paranormal abilities; those breaking this condition being liable for a fine and possible charges of fraud for material gain. We also ask Her Majesty's Government to legally prohibit any attempt by a psychic, medium (licensed or otherwise) and/or witchcraft practioner of any tradition to use fear or intimidation to acquire or retain clients - particularly in regard to professed psychic abilities or divine favour.



The New AITC Course!

Currently there are 6 completed modules. MAPIT are awaiting responses from academics around the world. We appologise for the delay and will inform you as we complete the modules.



UPIA MEETINGS

The next UPIA Meeting will be held on June 9th 2009 at the Residence—Formally known as the Bulls Head at 7.30pm See you there.

Weird '09, to be held in August 2009, is Wiltshire's premier UFO and paranormal conference. We are proud to present a stellar line-up of distinguished speakers, from the UK and the US, who will share with you their expertise and experiences in ufology, the paranormal and crop circle research.

Speaking live will be Nick Pope, Paul Devereux, Joe McGonagle, Dr. Peter McCue, USA Crop Circle Researcher Nancy Talbot, Mike Oram, Kevin Goodman, Hayley Stevens, Nick Redfern, Brian Allan, and SPI USA. Recorded interviews with Dr. David Clarke and Steve Dewey will also be shown.

Weird '09 will be held over two days at the Athenaeum Theatre in the small town of Warminster, once the UFO capital of the UK, and possibly the world, with over 5000 sightings reported over a ten year period.

Warminster nestles in the beautiful rural countryside of Wiltshire, within easy striking distance of important ancient monuments, including Stonehenge, Avebury, West Kennet Long Barrow and Silbury Hill. The impressive Iron Age hill forts of Battlesbury and Scratchbury are also close by.

You will also be able to join the annual Warminster Sky Watch at the fabled Cradle Hill and participate in a paranormal investigation



UPIA SKYWATCH & IAN CASH PRODUCTIONS

A SPECIAL THANKS TO LEO AND CATHY FOR ALLOWING THE UPIA SKYWATCH TO TAKE PLACE AT THE RESERVE. HOPE WE DID NOT MAKE TOO MUCH OF A MESS.

IAN CASH PRODUCTIONS WERE FILMING UPIA INVESTIGATORS ON THEIR SKYWATCH AND CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS WHICH WILL LATER BE SHOWN ON THE PARANORMAL CHANNEL ON SKY TV.

THANKS TO PHIL AND HIS AMAZING TELESCOPE WHO POINTED OUT URIDIUM FLARES AND SATURN.



MANCHESTER RADIO ONLINE
<http://www.manchesterradioonline.com>

THE UPIA ATTENDED MANCHESTER RADIO ONLINE ON MAY 23RD 2009 AND FEATURED DAVE SADLER, STEVE MERA, PAUL KIMBLE AND OTHERS.

ALTERNATIVELY, TURN IN EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. STEVE MERA WILL BE DISCUSSING THE LATEST PARANORMAL NEWS AND CASES.

DETAILS OF THE PARANORMAL SHOW CAN BE FOUND ON THE MANCHESTER RADIO ONLINE WEBSITE. SO JOIN US FROM 9.00PM TILL MIDNIGHT.





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THE NEW BRITISH INVESTIGATORS TRAINING COURSE IN ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA (BITC)

The BITC Course has quickly become one of the worlds leading educational courses in the subject of Forensic Parapsychology, Anomalistic Psychology and Anomalous Phenomena. The BITC course is only available via correspondence. Our courses are sent out in full to our students. Students sitting the correspondence course have as long as they wish to complete the course and submit their answers to MAPIT Head Office. On receipt an examination paper is sent out. On passing the course students will be sent a BITC certificate and confidential registration document. Students can then (if they wish) obtain assistance regarding research, investigations, analysis and being put in contact with local organisations. Most organisations throughout the country recognise the BITC qualification and are well aware of its standards. This qualification may allow students to enter or join an organisation and immediately become an activist without the need to sit other similar courses. The correspondent BITC Course costs just £50.00 UK Sterling... \$120.00 U.S. Students sitting the correspondent course will obtain a free CD-Rom containing hundreds of newspaper clippings, documents and thousands of paranormal photographs.

It is not compulsory to sit the BITC examination paper, however, it is necessary if students wish to become active researchers or investigators. If students have any difficulties they can contact MAPIT via E-Mail or Telephone during office hours. Assistance can also be obtained from our extensive web site. The Examination paper consists of 100 questions regarding details found within the course material. Students will require 75% of the questions correct to pass the examination. The BITC course consists of 20 modules. At the end of each module, students will find a question sheet. All question sheets must be completed and returned together to MAPIT Head Office for marking. The BITC Course can be sat by students of any age and need no previous knowledge. MAPIT also run a continuation course such as the Advanced (AITC) course.

HOW TO SIT THE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE ?

Course Registration Fee = £5.00
Course Fee = £45.00
Total Amount To Pay = £50.00

Send your registration & course fee of £50.00 UK Sterling or \$120.00 U.S. (or Equivalent of £50.00 UK Sterling) via cheque, postal orders or international cheques to :

MAPIT Head Office
85, Royal Oak Road
Baguley, Wythenshawe
Manchester, M23 1DZ
England UK

Make sure to include which course you would like to obtain and your full postal address.
(DO NOT USE ABBREVIATIONS IN YOUR ADDRESS - SUCH AS U.S. STATES)

As soon as MAPIT receive your registration & course fee, the full course & CD-Rom will be dispatched. If students have any further queries, they can simply E-Mail MAPIT. A syllabus can be obtained via our website at: <http://www.maxpages.com/MAPIT>



**UPIA : UNKNOWN PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ASSOCIATION
ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS THAT ARE INTERESTED
IN TAKING PART IN RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION. MEETINGS ARE HELD
IN CONGLETON CHESHIRE EVERY MONTH. IF INTERESTED CONTACT
DAVE SADLER ON : 07805 688610**